

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) An image editing apparatus comprising:
  - an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;
  - a face image detection part for detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;
  - an inference part for inferring at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object ~~the attributes~~ of the face image based on ~~[[the]]~~ feature amounts in an image area containing the face image detected by the face image detection part;
  - a memory for storing contents of correction process of the face image as predetermined data corresponding to each class;
  - a determining part for determining the contents of correction process of the face image, stored in the memory, based on the result of inference by the inference part;
  - a face image correction part for executing the correction process on the face image according to the contents determined by the determining part; and
  - an image output part for outputting an image corrected by the face image correction part.
2. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the inference part includes a part for executing the process of inferring at least ~~selected~~ one of the race, age and sex as the attributes.
3. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the face image detection part includes a part for rectifying the result of detection of the face image in response to ~~[[the]]~~ a rectify operation for the result of detection of the face image.
4. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the inference part includes a part for rectifying the inference result in response to ~~[[the]]~~ an operation of rectifying the inference result.

5. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the face image correction part includes a part for executing [[the]] a recorection  
of the face image after the correction process based on [[the]] rectified contents in  
response to [[the]] an operation of rectifying the contents of the correction, and  
wherein the image output part outputs the latest corrected image at [[the]] a particular  
time point in response to the finalize operation.
6. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a  
registration processing part for registering in a memory [[the]] a registered  
information on the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image  
detection part in correspondence with the contents of correction process executed  
by the face image correction part,  
wherein the face image detection part is set to detect, in accordance with the operation of  
designating ~~predetermined~~ registered information, a face image from the input  
image by [[the]] a search process using the feature amounts contained in the  
designated registered information, and  
wherein the face image correction part, upon detection of the face image by the search  
process, executes the correction process on the detected face image according to  
the contents of correction process contained in the designated registered  
information.
7. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with  
[[the]] information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the  
image input part, the face image based on the link information.
8. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the corrected image after  
correction.
9. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed, transmitted through a computer network, and  
wherein the image output part ~~is selected one of a part for printing~~ either prints a corrected image ~~and a part for transmitting, or transmits~~ through the computer network, the corrected image either ~~selected one of~~ a transmitter of the image ~~[[and]]~~ or a destination designated by the transmitter.

10. (currently amended) An image editing apparatus comprising:

an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;  
a face image detection part for detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;  
a registration part for holding ~~[[the]]~~ registered information including ~~[[the]]~~ feature amounts of the face image of each of a predetermined number of objects which are classified into at least one of race, age, and sex, and ~~[[the]]~~ an information required for correcting the face image in correspondence with ~~[[the]]~~ an identification information unique to the object;  
an inference part for estimating at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object by comparing the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image detection part with the information registered in the registration part;  
a face image correction part for executing the process of correcting the detected face image using the registered information of the object estimated by the inference part; and  
an image output part for outputting the image corrected by the face image correction part.

11. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the face image detection part includes a part for rectifying the result of detection of the face image in response to ~~[[the]]~~ a rectify operation for the result of detection of the face image.

12. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the inference part includes a part for rectifying the inference result in response to ~~[[the]]~~ an operation of rectifying the inference result.

13. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein the face image correction part includes a part for executing [[the]] a recorection  
of the face image after the correction process based on [[the]] rectified contents in  
response to [[the]] an operation of rectifying the contents of the correction, and  
wherein the image output part outputs the latest corrected image at [[the]] a particular  
time point in response to the finalize operation.
14. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with  
[[the]] information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the  
image input part, the face image based on the link information.
15. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the corrected image after  
correction.
16. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed,  
transmitted through a computer network, and  
wherein the image output part ~~is selected one of a part for printing~~ either prints a  
corrected image ~~and a part for transmitting, or transmitts~~ through the computer  
network, the corrected image either to ~~selected one of~~ a transmitter of the image  
[[and]] or a destination designated by the transmitter.
17. (currently amended) An image editing apparatus comprising:  
an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;  
a face image detection part for detecting a face image of an object contained in the input  
image;  
an information input part for inputting [[the]] information indicating [[the]] contents of a  
correction process of the face image of the object;

an inference part for inferring at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object based on the detected face image;

a memory for storing the contents of correction process of the face image as predetermined data corresponding to each class;

a face image correction part for executing the process of correcting the face image detected by the face image detection part, in accordance with the contents based on the information input by the information input part; and

an image output part for outputting the image corrected by the face image correction part.

18. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a registration processing part for registering in a memory ~~[[the]]~~ a registered information on the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image detection part in correspondence with the contents of correction process executed by the face image correction part,

wherein the face image detection part is set to detect, in accordance with the operation of designating ~~predetermined~~ registered information, a face image from the input image by ~~[[the]]~~ a search process using the feature amounts contained in the designated registered information, and

wherein the face image correction part, upon detection of the face image by the search process, executes the correction process on the detected face image according to the contents of correction process contained in the designated registered information.

19. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with ~~[[the]]~~ information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the image input part, the face image based on the link information.

20. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the corrected image after correction.

21. (currently amended) The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,  
wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed,  
transmitted through a computer network, and  
wherein the image output part ~~is selected one of a part for printing~~ either prints a  
~~corrected image and a part for transmitting,~~ or transmits through the computer  
network, the corrected image either to selected one of a transmitter of the image  
[[and]] or a destination designated by the transmitter.
22. (currently amended) An image editing method comprising the steps of:  
inputting an image picked up of a person; detecting a face image of an object contained  
in the input image;  
inferring ~~the attributes of the face image~~ at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the  
object based on [[the]] feature amounts in an image area containing the detected  
face image;  
  
determining the contents of correction process of the face image based on the result of  
the inference process;  
executing the correction process on the face image according to the determined  
correction contents; and  
outputting the corrected face image,  
wherein the correction contents are stored as predetermined data corresponding to each  
class in a memory.
23. (currently amended) An image editing method comprising the steps of:  
inputting an image picked up of a person;  
detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;  
estimating at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the [[an]] object, out of a  
predetermined number of objects, contained in the input image by comparing a  
data base having registered therein the feature amounts of the face image and the  
information required to correct the face image with the feature amounts of the  
detected face image;

correcting the face image of the ~~estimated~~-object using the information required for correction registered in the data base; and  
outputting the corrected face image,  
wherein the information required for correction are registered as predetermined data corresponding to each class.

24. (currently amended) An image editing method comprising the steps of:  
inputting an image picked up of a person;  
detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;  
estimating at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object;  
receiving the input of ~~[[the]]~~ information indicating ~~[[the]]~~ contents of a correction process of a face image of the object corresponding to the estimation;  
executing the process of correcting the detected face image according to the contents based on the input information; and  
outputting the corrected face image,  
wherein the contents of the correction process are stored as predetermined data corresponding to each class in a memory.

25. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer readable instructions executable on a computer to perform ~~A program for a computer to execute~~ the steps of:  
inputting an image picked up of a person;  
detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;  
inferring the attributes of the face image at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object based on ~~[[the]]~~ feature amounts in an image area containing the detected face image;  
determining the contents of correction process of the face image based on the result of the inference process;  
executing the correction process on the face image according to the determined correction contents; and  
outputting the corrected face image,

wherein the contents of the correction process are stored as predetermined data corresponding to each class in a memory.

26. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer readable instructions executable on a computer to perform ~~A program for a computer to execute~~ the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

estimating at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the [[an]] object, out of a predetermined number of objects, contained in the input image by comparing a data base having registered therein the feature amounts of the face image and the information required to correct the face image with the feature amounts of the detected face image;

correcting the face image of the ~~estimated~~ object using the information required for correction registered in the data base corresponding to the estimation; and

outputting the corrected face image,

wherein the contents of the correction process are stored as predetermined data corresponding to each class in a memory.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer readable instructions executable on a computer to perform ~~A program for a computer to execute~~ the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

estimating at least one of race, age, and sex as a class of the object;

receiving the input of [[the]] information indicating [[the]] contents of a correction process of a face image of the object;

executing the process of correcting the detected face image according to the contents based on the input information; and

outputting the corrected face image,

wherein the contents of the correction process are stored as predetermined data corresponding to each class in a memory.